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NEWS SERVICE

Navy League 20 Oct 1975
Date.
Item No.
Ref. No.
CIA-01 Colby, William (Copy furnished Org 1)
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NEW YORK (AP) - CIA Director William Colby, making his sharpest criticism yet of congressional investigators, said Monday night they are staging ''successive sensational reruns'' of old charges ''for the amusement, or even amazement'' of the public.
''Is our intelligence to become mere theater?'' Colby asked in a speech on the eve of the resumption of hearings by the Senate Intelligence Committee. Referring to Tuesday's scheduled hearings on CIA and FBI mail opening programs, Colby told a Navy League dinner, ''We are about to have our fifth rerun of the great mail-reading story.''
Colby said that he first revealed the existence of the CIA's 20-year-long mail opening program last January in congressional testimony.
''Its second playing was in the Rockefeller Commission report. This was followed by a TV spectacular featuring Representative (Bella) Abzug's indignation. The Post Office and Civil Service Committee of the House of Representatives then reviewed it. This week, the Senate Select Committee will repeat the performance in greater detail on live TV.''
A spokeswoman for the Senate committee said there were no plans for live television coverage of Tuesday's hearing.
A text of Colby's remarks, prepared for delivery to the 71st Anniversary Dinner of the New York Council of The Navy League of the United States, was released in Washington.
Colby repeated earlier statements that ''damage has already been done by irresponsible exposure of true intelligence secrets.'' Last month, the Ford Administration temporarily cut off the House Intelligence Committee's access to classified information following the release of documents on the 1973 Mideast war which Colby said revealed intelligence gathering methods.

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COLBY ALSO REPEATED EARLIER CRITICISMS OF THE PUBLICITY SURROUNDING WHAT HE HAS FREQUENTLY CALLED A SMALL NUMBER OF ''MISSTEPS AND MISDEEDS'' OF THE CIA. IN PARTICULAR; COLBY REFERRED TO MEDIA DESCRIPTIONS OF THE CIA'S OPERATION CHAOS AS A ''MASSIVE'' ILLEGAL DOMESTIC SPY OPERATION AND TO PUBLIC ALLEGATIONS THAT THE CIA HAS INFILTRATED THE WHITE HOUSE OR WAS INVOLVED IN THE ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY.

''WHEN AN OPERATION THAT INVOLVED THREE AGENTS IS PROCLAIMED AS 'MASSIVE;' WHEN THE NORMAL DETAIL OF CIA EMPLOYES TO OTHER GOVERNMENT AGENCIES IS CALLED 'INFILTRATION' . . . OR WHEN CONSPIRACY THEORISTS MOUTH CIA COMPLICITY IN THE ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY DESPITE FLAT DENIALS; THEN THE AMERICAN PEOPLE ARE UNDERSTANDABLY TROUBLED;'' COLBY SAID.

IT WAS COLBY'S FIRST PUBLIC CRITICISM OF THE COMMITTEE HEADED BY SEN. FRANK CHURCH; D-IDAHO.

ONE INTELLIGENCE SOURCE SUGGESTED COLBY'S DISPLEASURE WITH THE SENATE COMMITTEE STEMMED FROM AN INCIDENT LAST MONTH WHEN CHURCH REVEALED THAT THE CIA HAD OPENED THE MAIL OF SEVERAL PROMINENT AMERICANS; INCLUDING ONE 1968 LETTER ADDRESSED TO THEN-REPUBLICAN PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE RICHARD M. NIXON. CHURCH MADE THIS DISCLOSURE WITHOUT FIRST TELLING THE CIA HE WAS ABOUT TO DO SO; THEREBY VIOLATING AN UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE AGENCY AND THE COMMITTEE AND ELICITING APOLOGIES FROM COMMITTEE STAFF MEMBERS; ACCORDING TO THIS SOURCE.

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(COLBY)

(RELEASE AT 9 PM, EDT)

NEW YORK (UPI) -- CIA DIRECTOR WILLIAM COLBY SAID TODAY THE UNITED STATES HAS THE BEST INTELLLIGENCE ORGANIZATION IN THE WORLD, BUT IT ALREADY HAS BEEN DAMAGED AND CAN BE DESTROYED BY IRRESPONSIBLE DISCLOSURE OF SECRETS.

"DAMAGE HAS ALREADY BEEN DONE BY IRRESPONSIBLE EXPOSURE OF TRUE INTELLIGENCE SECRETS," HE SAID IN AN ADDRESS PREPARED FOR DELIVERY BEFORE THE NEW YORK COUNCIL OF THE NAVY LEAGUE OF THE UNITED STATES.

"SUCH EXPOSURES HAVE CONCERNED OUR FOREIGN FRIENDS AND CAUSED SOME WHO WISH TO HELP US TO THINK THAT THE RISK IS TOO GREAT."

THE UNITED STATES HAS THE BEST INTELLIGENCE SERVICE IN THE WORLD, HE SAID.

"ITS TECHNICAL GENIUSES, ITS DEDICATED CLANDESTINE OPERATORS, ITS OBJECTIVE ANALYSTS HAVE BROUGHT WHOLE NEW DIMENSIONS IN PRECISION, IN SCOPE, AND IN FORWARD PROJECTIONS TO AMERICAN INTELLIGENCE."

AS AN EXAMPLE, HE SAID, IN YEARS PAST INTELLIGENCE HAD TO TRY TO FIND OUT WHERE AN ENEMY FLEET WAS.

"TODAY, WE KNOW NOT ONLY WHERE IT IS, BUT WHAT IT CAN DO, AND WE KNOW MORE -- WE KNOW WHAT KIND OF FLEET TO EXPECT IN THE FUTURE. WE HAVE FOLLOWED THE PROGRESS OF THE NEW RUSSIAN CARRIER PRESENTLY ON SEA TRIALS SINCE ITS KEEL WAS LAID FIVE YEARS AGO."

"BUT WILL WE DESTROY THIS GREAT INTELLIGENCE CAPABILITY?" COLBY ASKED. "WILL WE HAVE AN INVESTIGATION IN 1988 AS TO WHY IN 1975 WE DEPRIVED OUR NATION OF ITS TECHNICAL AND FOREIGN SOURCES THAT PROVIDE INFORMATION ABOUT THE THREATS WE WILL FACE IN THE YEARS AHEAD. WILL WE HAVE PUBLICITY OR PROTECTION? WILL WE HAVE SENSATION OR SAFETY?"

COLBY SAID THE CIA DOES NOT OPPOSE INVESTIGATION. "WE WELCOME IT. BUT INVESTIGATION MUST BE RESPONSIBLE, AS INTELLIGENCE MUST BE RESPONSIBLE."

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